

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

March 15th 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
elect – to choose a person by voting
cardinal – a senior person in the Catholic Church
balcony – part of a building that is outside; a platform with a small wall or gate around.
bow – to bend over at the waist as a sign of greeting, respect or acceptance
blessing – best wishes

1. every years. 5 a new president The must elect people
The people must elect a new president every 5 years.
2. pope. cardinal Canadian A be chosen as might

3. below. I on the balcony stood called and to my daughter

4. instead of In Asian cultures shaking hands. people often bow

5. gave our to them. We blessing

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. There are _____ Catholics in the world.	a) 1.2 billion b) 2.1 million
2. The _____ Jorge Bergoglio from Argentina to be the new pope.	a) cardinals elected b) the Catholics voted
3. Jorge Bergoglio, now Pope Francis the first, is the first pope from _____.	a) North America b) the Americas
4. Jorge Bergoglio is famous for taking the bus to work and _____.	a) working downtown b) cooking his own dinner
5. The new, 76-year-old pope _____ St. Peter's Basilica wearing simple white robes.	a) stood on the balcony of b) hid from the rain under
6. Pope Francis the first _____ for their blessing.	a) bowed and asked the crowds b) looked at the crowds and prayed

Discussion Question

How important do you think the Catholic Church is around the world? In your home country how many religions are there?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. warn	a) not common or frequent
	2. keep an eye on	b) tell people about a danger or risk
	3. coyote	c) a place where dog owners can walk their dog and let them run freely
	4. yelping	d) a wild dog that lives in Alberta, the size of a large pet dog
	5. recovering	e) crying out in pain
	6. several	f) to watch carefully
	7. wounds	g) more than two
	8. rare	h) getting better
	9. off leash area	i) injuries, cuts and bruises

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ There was a coyote attack in northeast Calgary.
2. ____ The coyote attack happened late Wednesday.
3. ____ The attack happened in someone's front yard.
4. ____ The woman in the story saw her dog in the coyote's mouth.
5. ____ The coyote dropped the dog in the end.
6. ____ Coyote attacks are common in Calgary.

Discussion Question

How do you think we can make sure our pets are safe? What should the City of Calgary do about problem animals like coyotes?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

curator (manager of museum or zoo)	enclosure (cage)	minor (small)
confrontation (difficult meeting)	review (investigation)	properly (correctly)
consequences (results)	agitated (a bit angry)	exhibits (shows, displays)

1. Animals in a zoo must live in some kind of _____.
2. There is usually a _____ for the displays at the zoo. This person must make sure the animals are safe and healthy and the display is safe for guests.
3. If an animal feels _____ or threatened it will run away (if possible.)
4. I got a _____ cut on my finger when I was chopping vegetables.
5. When you go to a museum you can see different types of _____.
6. What are the _____ if you miss class? Maybe you will get a zero on any missed assignments.
7. If you do not complete the task _____ it will have to be done again.
8. After a complete _____ of the facts, the man was found guilty.
9. I had a _____ with a bear last summer while I was camping. I slowly backed away and returned to my car.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who was fired at the Calgary zoo? Why was this person fired?
2. When the gorillas got out of their cage, where did they go?
3. What happened to the person who did not lock the door properly?
4. What could have happened?
5. What is in the kitchen?
6. How did the animals feel when they were in the kitchen?
7. What happened to the gorillas in the end?

Discussion Question

Have you ever been to the Edmonton or Calgary zoo? What can we learn by visiting a zoo? Do you think we need zoos to protect animals? Should zoos be banned?

Language Focus

Pronunciation of the Simple Past

We often use the simple past verb tense when we are reporting the news. The simple past is used when the action occurred in the past, but is no longer occurring now.

Verbs are grouped into regular and irregular verbs.

To change regular verbs into the past tense we simply add 'ed.'

There are three different ways to pronounce the 'ed' at the end of regular verbs in the past tense.

Sometimes the 'ed' sounds like a **D**. For example called sounds like **callid**

Sometimes the 'ed' sounds like a **T**. For example worked sounds like **workt**

Sometimes the 'ed' sounds like **Id** For example counted sounds like **count-ted**

So how do you know the correct pronunciation? Follow these simple rules:

Words ending in the sounds: **b, g, l, m, n, r, v, w, y, z, and vowels sounds** pronounce 'ed' as **D**

Words ending in the sounds : **sh, ch, x, f, p, k, s, f-** pronounce 'ed' as **T**

Words ending in **t** or **d sounds** - pronounce the 'ed' as **ID**

Can you hear the different pronunciations of words ending in 'ed'? Listen to the first and third story and write down simple past tense verbs in the correct column. Practice pronouncing the words correctly.

Try to add other popular verbs to the lists. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words ending in the sounds: b, g, l, m, n, r, v, w, y, z, and vowels sounds pronounce 'ed' as D	Words ending in the sounds : sh, ch, x, f, p, k, s, f- pronounce 'ed' as T	Words ending in t or d sounds - pronounce the 'ed' as ID

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH 15 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for March 15 th .	0:00
Story 1	The world's 1.2 billion Catholics have a new pope. Argentina's Jorge Bergoglio was elected by the cardinals Wednesday. He is now called Pope Francis the first. He is the first pope from the Americas and the first non-European pope in more than one thousand years. In Argentina, the new pope is known for riding the bus to work and cooking his own dinner in a simple downtown apartment. On the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after a rain shower Wednesday evening, wearing simple white robes, the 76-year-old pope bowed to the crowds and asked for their blessing.	0:09
Story 2	Dog owners are being warned to keep an eye on their pets after a coyote attack in northwest Calgary. The attack happened early Wednesday morning in the community of Briar Hill. A woman had just let her two dogs out, in the front yard, when she suddenly heard her yorkie yelping. When she looked outside, she saw the dog in the coyote's mouth. She chased it down the street until it finally dropped the three-pound dog. The dog is recovering from several bite wounds but is expected to be fine. Coyote attacks are rare in Calgary, but dog walkers in a nearby off-leash park are worried it could happen to them.	0:54
Story 3	A zookeeper has been fired after being found responsible for the escape of some gorillas at the Calgary Zoo. Last Friday, several western lowland gorillas got into the gorilla kitchen from their enclosure. The zoo says a review found a keeper, who received a minor injury during a confrontation with one of the gorillas, had not properly locked a door. Curator Malu Celli says there could have been tragic consequences. The kitchen is attached to the enclosure and is filled with food gorillas eat, including fruit, fresh vegetables and grain. Celli says the gorillas are very strong and can be dangerous if they feel frightened. She said the animals inside the kitchen were in an unknown area and were somewhat agitated. The gorillas were safely moved back to the exhibit.	1:39

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. The people must elect a new president every 5 years.
2. A Canadian cardinal might be chosen as pope.
3. I stood on the balcony and called to my daughter on the street below.
4. In Asian cultures people often bow instead of shaking hands.
5. We gave our blessing to them.

Listening

1. There are _____ Catholics in the world.	a) 1.2 billion b) 2.1 million
2. The _____ Jorge Bergoglio from Argentina to be the new pope.	a) cardinals elected b) the Catholics voted
3. Jorge Bergoglio is the first pope from _____.	a) North America b) the Americas
4. Jorge Bergoglio is famous for taking the bus to work and _____.	a) working downtown b) cooking his own dinner
5. The new, 76-year-old pope _____ St. Peter's Basilica wearing simple white robes.	a) stood on the balcony of b) hid from the rain under
6. The pope _____ for their blessing.	a) bowed and asked the crowds b) looked at the crowds and prayed

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
b	1. warn	a) not common or frequent
f	2. keep an eye on	b) tell people about a danger or risk
d	3. coyote	c) a place where dog owners can walk their dog and let them run freely
e	4. yelping	d) a wild dog that lives in Alberta, the size of a large pet dog
h	5. recovering	e) crying out in pain
g	6. several	f) to watch carefully
i	7. wounds	g) more than two
a	8. rare	h) getting better
c	9. off leash area	i) injuries, deep cuts and bruises

Listening

1. F There was a coyote attack in northeast Calgary.
2. F The coyote attack happened late Wednesday.
3. T The attack happened in someone's front yard.
4. T The woman in the story saw her dog in the coyote's mouth.
5. T The coyote dropped the dog in the end.
6. F Coyote attacks are common in Calgary.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. Animals in a zoo must live in some kind of enclosure.
2. There is usually a curator for the displays at the zoo. This person must make sure the animals are safe and healthy and the display is safe for guests.
3. If an animal feels agitated or threatened it will run away (if possible.)
4. I got a minor cut on my finger when I was chopping vegetables.
5. When you go to a museum you can see different types of exhibits.
6. What are the consequences if you miss class? Maybe you will get a zero on any missed assignments.
7. If you do not complete the task properly it will have to be done again.
8. After a complete review of the facts, the man was found guilty.
9. I had a confrontation with a bear last summer while I was camping. I slowly backed away and returned to my car.

Listening

1. Who was fired at the Calgary zoo? Why was this person fired? *A zookeeper was fired because he or she was responsible for the escape of some gorillas.*
2. When the gorillas got out of their cage, where did they go? *They went into the gorilla kitchen.*
3. What happened to the person who did not lock the door properly? *The keeper received a minor injury during a confrontation with one of the gorillas.*
4. What could have happened? *There could have been more tragic consequences.*
5. What is in the kitchen? *Food for the gorillas, including fruit, vegetables and grain*
6. How did the animals feel when they were in the kitchen? *They were in an unknown area so they felt agitated.*
7. What happened to the gorillas in the end? *They were moved safely back to their exhibit.*

Language Focus

Words ending in the sounds: b, g, l, m, n, r, v, w, y, z, and vowels sounds pronounce 'ed' as D	Words ending in the sounds : sh, ch, x, f, p, k, s, f - pronounce 'ed' as T	Words ending in t or d sounds - pronounce the 'ed' as ID
called bowed fired received filled frightened	asked locked attached	elected agitated (an adjective but listen to the pronunciation)